



NEWS RELEASE



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CITY WELCOMES ATTENDEES OF THE 'GREENING THE HEARTLAND' CONFERENCE

INDIANAPOLIS – John Hazlett, Director of the Office of Sustainability for the City of Indianapolis, will “ring the bell” at the Indianapolis Convention Center to signify the opening of 'Greening the Heartland 2012' -the largest green building and sustainable community conference in the Midwest taking place on May 16 through 18.

This year's GTH2012 theme '**Building Community**', plans to emphasize all aspects of our community as a collection of parts that when carefully considered can create a well-integrated and sustainable whole. Successful collaboration invites the diversity of people, businesses, and municipalities coming together to share their vision taking away solutions for sustainable growth in all of our Heartland communities.

In his opening remarks, John Hazlett will highlight the Office of Sustainability's accomplishments for the city of Indianapolis and Marion County. Under his direction the office has brought active change to our city streets paving the way for safer bicycling and introducing recycling to the circle monument's pedestrian traffic. All efforts are geared to promote Building Sustainable Communities in Indianapolis. Join the conversation, it begins Wednesday morning at 8:30 when Mr. Hazlett welcomes all attendees to Indianapolis and shares updates on the following initiatives:

- RebuildIndy projects that incorporated green infrastructure
- The Green Checklist protocol that requires city staff and contractors to evaluate all infrastructure projects for possible green elements, such as rain gardens, porous pavement, sidewalks and bike lanes.
- Greening the City-County Building which made the 50 year old building one of the most sustainable buildings in the city.
- Historic Woodruff Place improvements that leveraged funds from the neighborhood foundation, grants, and the city to create plan to retrofit their historic street lamps with energy efficient LED lights.

Over 1,000 attendees from the 12 state Heartland Region are expected to converge on downtown Indy. Building industry professionals, business community leaders, nonprofit organizations, educators and students will be arriving in Indianapolis to collaborate on green building and sustainable developments.

About the US Green Building Council:

The US Green Building Council (USGBC) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. With a community comprising more than 70 local chapter affiliates, 18,000+ member companies and organizations, and more than 140,000 LEED® Professional Credential holders, the USGBC leads an unlikely diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students. Find out more about USGBC-IN at <http://www.usgbc-in.org>.

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